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Oregon State Capitol Building

With Republicans Back from Walkout, Legislators Race to Keep Key Legislation Afloat

The legislative session ends on Sunday.

By Saundra Sorenson
Of The Skanner News

The recently passed Measure 113 bans lawmakers with 10 or more unexcused absences from immediately running for re-election, but did little to dissuade Republicans from staging their fourth walkout in five years. At six weeks, the walkout broke state records and added to the anxiety that by effectively quashing new environmental legislation, Republicans could prevent the state from receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to battle climate change made available through the recently passed federal Inflation Reduction Act.

The six-week standoff came to an end last Thursday, with 10 Republican state senators likely to be the first to be censured under the new measure. With the legislative session scheduled to end on Sunday, two bills in particular have undergone significant compromise: a gun control measure that was passed

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Black Filmmakers Say Melanin-Challenged Cannes Film Festival Can Do Better page 5

JUNETEENTH



Paul Knauls, affectionately known as The Mayor of Northeast Portland, receives a lifetime achievement award on June 18, at the Juneteenth Oregon 2023 event. The two-day celebration of "Freedom Day" featured a parade, live music, local vendors, food and kid's activities. On Saturday, the crowd enjoyed musical performances by Cupid, BridgeCity Soul, Kirk Green, Greater Kind, and the Jason Neville Funky Soul Band. On Sunday festival goers danced in spotty rainshowers to BridgeCity Jazz, Tyrone Hendrix & Jubu Smith, Alonzo Chadwick, Saeeda Wright and Arietta Ward.

BIPOC Farm Collective Starts Strong with Two Major National Awards

The Strawberry Lane Collective in Milwaukie will offer no-cost land access for BIPOC growers.

By Saundra Sorenson
Of The Skanner News

A small farm project in Milwaukie that will provide no-cost land for BIPOC growers has received two national awards in its first year of operation.

The Strawberry Lane Collective launched in January with the aim of making the farm a land trust for BIPOC growers and beekeepers. The Practice Grant will help launch the collective's Rotate, Graze, Grow project to place a pair of blackbelly sheep around the farm to help remove aggressive and invasive plant species, more quickly readying the land for growers. The collective was also recognized with the Garden Conservancy Award this year.

"It's always been important to (farm owner

Monica Melger) to make sure that BIPOC growers have access to that land, as a kind of reparations project," collective member Dorian Campbell, who runs the project with Denise Mofidi, Jasmine Barber and Dawn Cohoe, told The Skanner. "So while folks who live out there are white, they're allowing BIPOC folks to farm or garden or grow mushrooms or work with bees out there, free of charge, knowing that land access is a big problem for BIPOC folks, and for Black folks in this area...it can be really difficult and really expensive."

The Practice Foundation provides "direct funding to grantees for projects that expand the ways humans design and care for the land," according to co-founder Emily Hicks.

In their application for the grant, the collective

noted only 1.5% of U.S. farmers are Black, and pointed out that due to Oregon's history of violent and exclusionary racist laws, only 0.1% of farmers throughout the state are Black.

The Strawberry Lane Collective is part of a burgeoning movement to help BIPOC Oregonians access the state's rich agricultural resources.

"Everything is no cost," Campbell said. "Everyone out there has access to any part of the land that they're interested in, water use, bathroom, kitchen use on the property - all for free."

The Skanner sat down with Campbell and Mofidi to discuss their vision for



Dorian Campbell of Otter Paw Herbs tends to the garden at Strawberry Lane Collective.

the collective. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

What will the Practice Grant allow you to do?

Campbell: The Practice Grant was a major game-changer for all of us. We're all really newer, smaller projects, but we won. It's allowed us to have money - at least for me, to do things right, as a new business owner, to not have to take shortcuts or compromise on the quality.

It's allowing us the money to build the infrastruc-

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